REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of January 9, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 6, and 8-11 are requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Boskamp (US 6,995,561).

The Reference of Record

Boskamp does not clearly set forth how the circuit of Figure 5, relied upon by the Examiner, relates to the system circuit of Figure 1. It is suggested that the amplifiers 22 (Figure 1) and 204 (Figure 5) are one in the same, as are coil assemblies 26 and 100. The circuit of Figure 5 appears to extend from amplifier 22, 204 to RF coil assembly 26, 101.

The Present Amendment Should Be Entered

The present amendment places claims 2, 6, and 10 in independent form including all of the subject matter of their parent claims. Because a dependent claim is read as including all of the subject matter of its parent claim, it is submitted that this amendment raises no issues which would require further search or consideration.

In placing the claims in independent form, the "characterized in that" language of original claim 1 has been deleted to place the claims in more conventional US form and format without changing the scope of the claims. Also, as claim 10 was placed in independent form, a potential antecedent basis error in parent claim 8 was corrected.

Moreover, for the reasons set forth below, it is submitted that this amendment places the claims in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, it is submitted that this amendment should be entered.

The Claims Are Not Anticipated by Boskamp

Claim 2 calls for the controller to have a user input for receiving a user input signal defining or selecting a volume of interest within the object space. It will be noted that, in the present application, the plane of interest can be sized, moved to the side, and the like in order to conform to the region to be imaged. Boskamp does

6

not disclose a user input which enables a user to define or select a volume of interest within the object space.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 2 is not anticipated by Boskamp.

Claim 6 calls for each drive branch to comprise a controllable amplifier. First, Boskamp does not suggest the use of a controllable amplifier in any of the sixteen branches. Rather, Boskamp uses signal attenuators. This has power and heat dissipation issues. Boskamp generates more power (and heat) than needed such that attenuators can remove some of the power, probably turning that power into more heat.

Second, Boskamp not only has no suggestion of amplifiers, Boskamp has no suggestion of controllable amplifiers. User controllable amplifiers enable a volume of interest to be controllably defined or selected by a user. Boskamp makes no suggestion of such user controllability.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 6 and claims 8 and 9 dependent therefrom are not anticipated by Boskamp.

Moreover, claim 9 calls for a memory for storing information on the field characteristics of each coil and for storing information on field distortions caused by an object in the object space. Boskamp discloses no such memory.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 9 is not anticipated by Boskamp.

Claim 10 calls for a memory associated with the controller for storing information on the field characteristic of each coil and field distortions caused by an object in object space. Boskamp neither discloses nor suggests such a memory.

Claim 10 further calls for the controller to receive input information relating to a type of object in the object space and a selection of a volume of interest. Boskamp has no controller, much less a controller which receives information relating to a type of object or a selection of a volume of interest.

Claim 10 further calls for the controller to read from the memory individual field characteristics of the individual transmit coils as well as field distortion characteristics of the object in object space. Boskamp has no controller for reading from memory individual field characteristics of individual transmit coils or field distortion characteristics of the object in object space, much less a memory which stores such information to be retrieved.

7

Claim 10 further calls for the controller to control settings of the controllable amplifiers or phase shifters taking into account the information received at the input as well as the information read from the memory. Boskamp discloses no controller which performs this function.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the claim 10 is not anticipated by Boskamp.
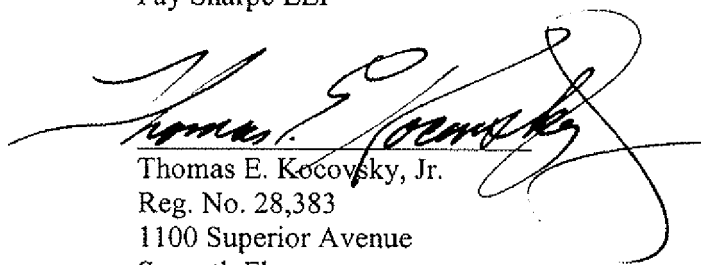
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that all claims distinguish patentably over the references of record and meet all statutory requirements. An early allowance of claims 2, 6, and 8-11 is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, she is requested to telephone Thomas Kocovsky at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

Fay Sharpe LLP

Thomas E. Kocovsky, Jr.
Reg. No. 28,383
1100 Superior Avenue
Seventh Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582